President Roosevelt and Mrs. Roosevelt Greet Marie Dressler

CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST

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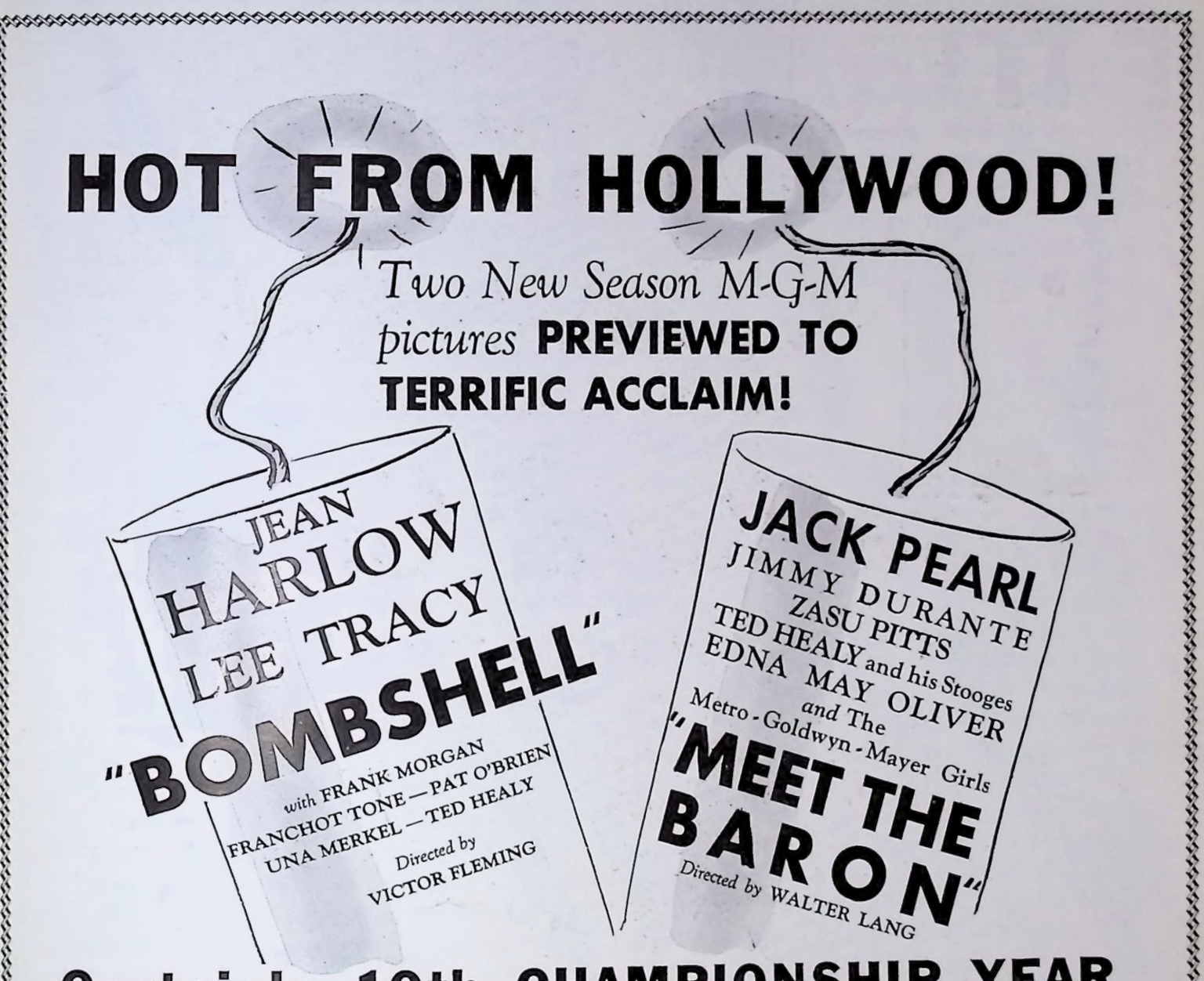

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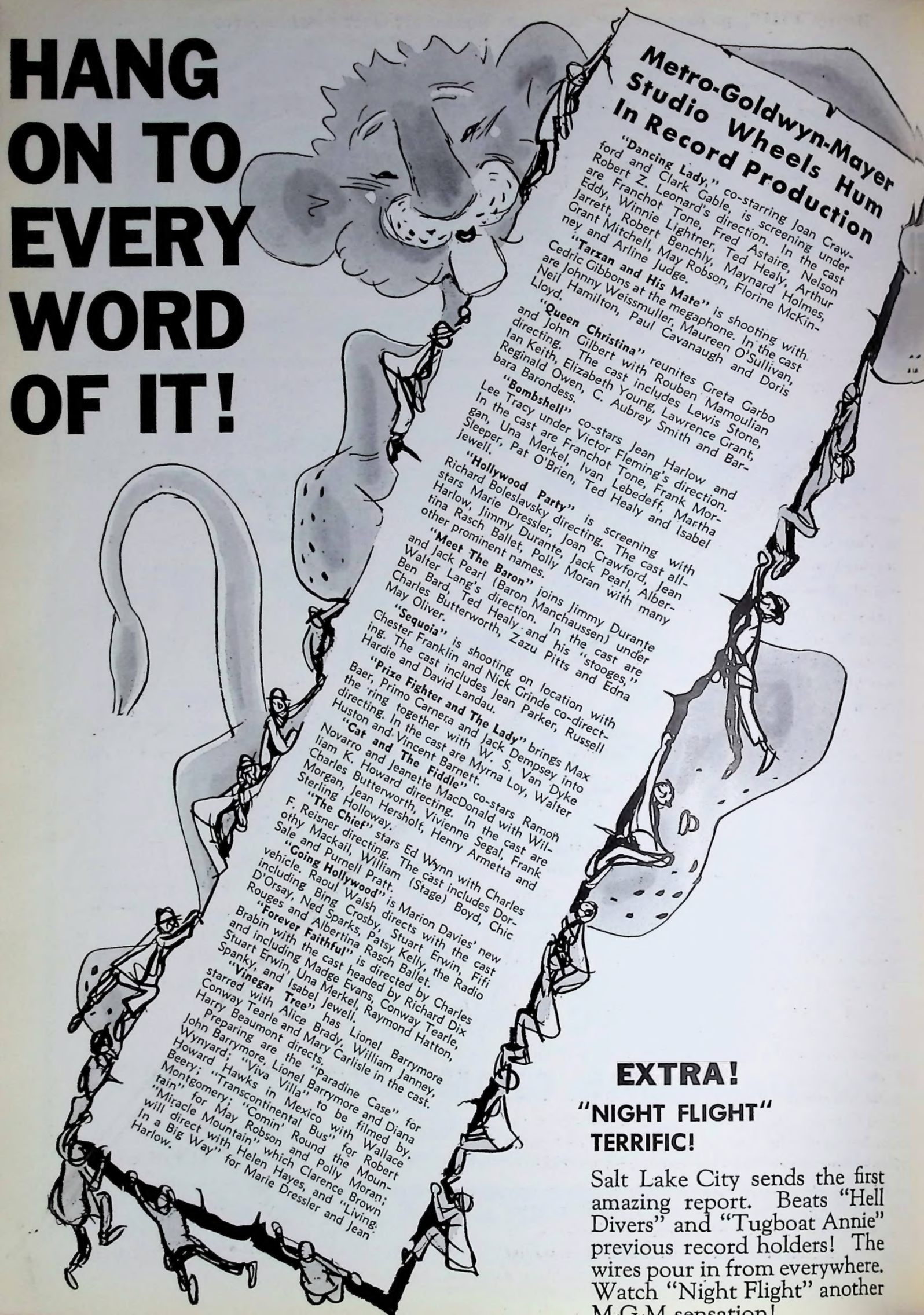
HANG ON TO EVERY WORD OF IT!



Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studio Wheels Hum In Record Production

"Dancing Lady," co-starring Joan Crawford and Clark Gable, is screening under Robert Z. Leonard's direction. In the cast are Franchot Tone, Fred Astaire, Nelson Eddy, Winnie Lightner, Ted Healy, Arthur Jarrett, Robert Benchly, Maynard Holmes, Grant Mitchell, May Robson, Florine McKinney and Arline Judge.

"Tarzan and His Mate" is shooting with Cedric Gibbons at the megaphone. In the cast are Johnny Weissmuller, Maureen O'Sullivan, Neil Hamilton, Paul Cavanaugh and Doris Lloyd.

"Queen Christina" reunites Greta Garbo and John Gilbert with Rouben Mamoulian directing. The cast includes Lewis Stone, Ian Keith, Elizabeth Young, Lawrence Grant, Reginald Owen, C. Aubrey Smith and Barbara Barondess.

"Bombshell" co-stars Jean Harlow and Lee Tracy under Victor Fleming's direction. In the cast are Franchot Tone, Frank Morgan, Una Merkel, Ivan Lebedeff, Martha Sleeper, Pat O'Brien, Ted Healy and Isabel Jewell.

"Hollywood Party" is screening with Richard Boleslavsky directing. The cast all-stars Marie Dressler, Joan Crawford, Jean Harlow, Jimmy Durante, Jack Pearl, Albertina Rasch Ballet, Polly Moran with many other prominent names.

"Meet The Baron" joins Jimmy Durante and Jack Pearl (Baron Manchaussen) under Walter Lang's direction. In the cast are Ben Bard, Ted Healy and his "stooges," Charles Butterworth, Zazu Pitts and Edna May Oliver.

"Sequoia" is shooting on location with Chester Franklin and Nick Grinde co-directing. The cast includes Jean Parker, Russell Hardie and David Landau.

"Prize Fighter and The Lady" brings Max Baer, Primo Carnera and Jack Dempsey into the ring together with W. S. Van Dyke directing. In the cast are Myrna Loy, Walter Huston and Vincent Barnett.

"Cat and The Fiddle" co-stars Ramon Novarro and Jeanette MacDonald with William K. Howard directing. In the cast are Charles Butterworth, Vivienne Segal, Frank Morgan, Jean Hersholt, Henry Armetta and Sterling Holloway.

"The Chief" stars Ed Wynn with Charles F. Reisner directing. The cast includes Dorothy Mackail, William (Stage) Boyd, Chic Sale and Purnell Pratt.

"Going Hollywood" is Marion Davies' new vehicle. Raoul Walsh directs with the cast including Bing Crosby, Stuart Erwin, Fifi D'Orsay, Ned Sparks, Patsy Kelly, the Radio Rouges and Albertina Rasch Ballet.

"Forever Faithful" is directed by Charles Brabin with the cast headed by Richard Dix and including Madge Evans, Conway Tearle, Stuart Erwin, Una Merkel, Raymond Hatton, Spanky, and Isabel Jewell.

"Vinegar Tree" has Lionel Barrymore starred with Alice Brady, William Janney, Conway Tearle and Mary Carlisle in the cast. Harry Beaumont directs.

Preparing are the "Paradine Case" for John Barrymore, Lionel Barrymore and Diana Wynyard; "Viva Villa" to be filmed by Howard Hawks in Mexico with Wallace Beery; "Transcontinental Bus" for Robert Montgomery; "Comin' Round the Mountain" for May Robson and Polly Moran; "Miracle Mountain" which Clarence Brown will direct with Helen Hayes, and "Living In a Big Way" for Marie Dressler and Jean Harlow.

EXTRA!

"NIGHT FLIGHT" TERRIFIC!

Salt Lake City sends the first amazing report. Beats "Hell Divers" and "Tugboat Annie" previous record holders! The wires pour in from everywhere. Watch "Night Flight" another M-G-M sensation!

'Henry VIII", gets $20,000 as week's guarantee at Radio Music Hall, New York, highest guarantee ever given

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RAY LEWIS
Editor and Managing Director

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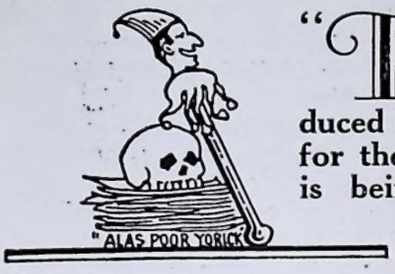
HENRY VIII REIGNS MONARCH



"THE Private Life of Henry VIII", which was produced by Alexander Korda, for the London Films, and is being released in the United States by United Artists, and in Canada through Regal Films Limited, is proving itself a real Monarch of the Screen, both in popular acclaim and in box-office results.

Here is a British-made picture which gave the Radio Music Hall, New York, its biggest opening day on record, $18,400, and which looks like over $100,000 on the week, topping that magnificent picture's returns, namely, "Cavalcade".

Mr. N. L. Nathanson enthusiastically states "Henry VIII is not only the best talking picture I have seen, but I cannot imagine any producer anywhere ever making a better picture, it's great."

In all our years of business association with the President of the Famous Players Canadian Corp. we have never heard Mr. Nathanson express himself as enthusiastically about a picture, save two other pictures produced by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, namely, "The Big Parade" and "Broadway Melody".

"King Henry VIII" was presented at a private screening in Toronto, arranged through the courtesy of Mr. Henry Nathanson, of Regal Films, in order that Lord St. Audries and his sister, the Hon. Maude Acland-Houde, now visiting Canada, might have an opportunity to intimately note the reaction in Canada to British Films, and carry this intimate picture back to England. At this private screening several representative citizens of various professions were present, Doctors of Medicine, of Surgery, of Letters, of Science, public men and commercial magnates, women who are prominent in public life, and all of these were agreed upon the extraordinary merits of this magnificent production, "The Private Life of King Henry VIII".

Your editor was among those present, and her comment is, "In all my years of witnessing motion pictures, thousands and thousands of them, silent and including Talking Pictures, I have never seen a better picture than this British one, 'The Private Life of King Henry VIII' ".

MARIE DRESSLER AMERICA'S SCREEN QUEEN

THE President of the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer pictures, namely, Mr. Nicholas Schenck, has received word that the President of the United States, Mr. Franklin D. Roosevelt, and the first lady of the land, Mrs. Roosevelt, have affixed their signatures to the Scroll of Honour, which is to be presented to Marie Dressler on her birthday, at Hollywood. The parchment testimonial is to have the names of the Governors of the various states of the United States affixed to this illuminated birthday greeting before it is presented to America's Screen Queen.

Motion Pictures at least has proved the exception to the rule in the matter of bestowing honour upon the living. It is a most commendable virtue to pay tribute in life, for tribute to the dead is only in honour of their memory, tribute to the living inspires them to live on, to create and to serve.

RAY PRESENTS

RAY LEWIS

THE Royal Alexandra, Toronto's one theatre for what is termed legitimate shows, has presented an appeal in the matter of assessment for taxes. The appeal embodies a statement that it is almost impossible to get shows. There is at present only one theatre in the city of Toronto presenting stage shows, and no stock company. For a city of nine hundred thousand, Queen City of Canada, one night's trip from New York City, the Mecca of Theatredom, it is not to the credit of Toronto that it must hunt for shows, or that it cannot make Toronto sufficiently worhwhile by way of box-office revenue, to inspire managers to hunt for it by way of bookings.

It may be argued that it is better for Moving Picture business that there is only a moving picture by way of entertainment. But we argue that the worst publicity which Moving Pictures can have is that they constitute a monopoly of Show Business. Such a situation always inspires somebody to start something; and incidentally no shows in town inspires show-going people into the habit of seeking their entertainment through other fields of amusement, and also inspires them to leave town to see some shows.

Now we have naturally no complaint to offer that our theatres are only showing Motion Pictures, since Motion Pictures is the business of which we are a part, but there is the danger of "too much of a good thing" and the fact that "Variety is the spice of life". Toronto is too important a city to go dead on Shows. The Drama is Eternal and one does not slay a god, for gods have the immortality of a resurrection.

SOMEWHERE I read a report that Mr. N. L. Nathanson intended reopening some of the "dark houses" of the transcanada theatres in order that companies may have a sufficient circuit to stimulate their coming into Canada. There was in this report a story that we would be having a series of English plays and also personal appearances of British stars. This is good business, it is Show Business, for did not our greatest impressarios of Show Business, the Frohmans, Messrs. Klaw and Erlanger, Dillingham, Hammerstein, Belasco, and later on Shuberts, Jules Murray, Sam Harris, George Cohan, etc., etc., make Show Business a matter of Big Business in their day? The horse and carriage may have been replaced by the automobile, but the Drama has not been replaced by the Screen, for Talking Pictures are the concrete example which proves that the Drama lives; and Talking Pictures will revive and revitalize the Drama for a generation which has only known Motion Pictures. What a public the Screen is educating to Drama.

Charles Laughton, as King Henry VIII, gives the screen the finest characterization we have yet had upon the screen and reminds us of the greatness of Emil Jannings.

The work of Laughton portrays a series of pictures, in makeup, in mannerisms, in voice, and in interpretation.

I will always carry before me a picture of King Henry VIII, not as Holbein painted him, but as Laughton drew him.

There is something of the miraculous about Laughton's Henry VIII, for Laughton is Henry in eyes, in lips, in thumb and in legs, and these eyes, lips, thumb and legs take on additional expressions and habits of age, as Henry ages, and as Laughton ages with Henry.

True Henry's wives are good to look upon, true the lines in Henry VIII, the situations furnish tragedy and comedy, the attention to detail presents a fidelity in production which paints pictures in the scullery and around the King's bed, with such artistry that such examples can only be found in those expressions of creative effort associated with genius, but Laughton is King of this picture and he will no doubt receive the Academy's award of Merit, bringing to England this much coveted crown when the awards are published for this season.

Variety calls "Henry VIII" an "ace picture and certainly the finest picture which has come out of England to date."

LAUGHTON'S line as he is to enter the bridal chamber, where Anne of Cleves, his fourth wife, chosen by his ministers, not by Henry, awaits his coming, is what might be termed history-making.

Anne of Cleves is ugly, she happens to be in love with one of her own countrymen and is as much opposed to this union of countries through her marriage to Henry as is Henry VIII. She deliberately accentuates her ugliness that Henry, who has a penchant for beautiful and graceful women, may divorce her. Henry is in love with Katharine Howard, lovely, seductive clever Katharine. Anne is repulsive to him, but his ministers cry for further progeny and Henry VIII sighs as he enters the bridal chamber, "The things I have done for England". It is priceless, it is immortal, it will be repeated as often as is, "Come out and see me sometime", a line which has made the name of Mae West merrily famous.

The "Romance of a People," Jewish Pageant, netted a profit of $200,000 on its New York Engagement

Observations — The Spotlight — By The Editor

HARMON C. "CEM" MERRITT has filed an appeal at Osgood Hall against conviction on a criminal negligence charge. The charge and conviction followed the death of Miss Kay Armstrong of Los Anegeles, who was a passenger in Merritt's car when it crashed into a transport trailer near Maidstone, on August 5th, of 1933.

Simon Meretsky, brother of Merritt was in Toronto arranging bail and an order has been sent to Guelph Reformatory, directing the release of Merritt.

Bail was fixed at $15,000. Justice Kerwin sentenced Merritt to an eight months term in jail. He had served six days of this sentence when released on bail.

The basis of appeal as contended by the appellant is that the trial judge led the jury to believe by inference that any negligence for which the appellant might be civilly responsible might or would constitute a crime for which he might be found guilty under the indictment. Merritt was theatre manager at Windsor, Ont. Several important public men testified as to his character.

* * * *

SAUL E. ROGERS, counsel for a group of Paramount bondholders, on October 18th made a formal request for the appearance of Adolph Zukor and John Hertz at the next meeting of the Paramount-Publix creditors, scheduled for October 27th. The request came before Referee Henry K. Davis and is to be "considered" by the trustees.

Samuel Zirn, counsel for a group of stockholders, completed his testimony on Wednesday, October 18th "under protest".

Zirn is the attorney for an intervening group of creditors. The testimony was before the Federal bankruptcy referee, Henry K. Davis. Mr. Zirn stated that the salaries paid to Adolph Zukor, Jesse Lasky and other officials of the Paramount-Publix Corporation now bankrupt, were completely unjustified and amounted to, "looting of the company's funds and of the stockholders' property". When Zirn asked Austin C. Keough, general counsel to the Paramount company if he did not consider these high salaries and bonuses unprincipled, "in view of the fact that they amounted to about ten times what the President of the United States receives, the Court informed him he was out of order. Zirn, however, later on repeated these questions and others of a similar nature, whereupon Referee Davis threatened to invoke contempt charges against him.

Mr. Zirn stated he was laying the foundations of possible actions with a view toward restitution of some of this pay to the stockholders. Mr. Zukor is reported to have received a flat salary of $130,000 and a bonus of $757.000 in cash during 1929. Jesse Lasky received the same salary and bonus. In the succeeding years the salaries were decreased until the company went bankrupt. In 1932 the company reported a loss of $15,000,000.

* * * *

MR. F. GOW, district supervisor of Famous Players Canadian theatres, left Penticton, B.C. for the Coast. Recently returning from an inspection tour Mr. Gow reported business throughout the Kootenays and the Okanagan is much better. Penticton has a Famous Players theatre, The Empress, Mr. Claude G. Smith is local manager. The bookings at The Empress include, M-G-M's "Hell Below", "Out All Night", "Warrior Husband's", "White Sister" another M-G-M feature with Helen Hays, that little big star.

* * * *

N. L. NATHANSON wired managers of Edmonton theatres on the opening of new season there as follows: "My return as President of Famous Players Canadian Corporation has been a source of great pride and pleasure to me. It has meant not only the return to a business I spent so much of my life helping to create but a renewal of valued and happy associations.

"Every patron entering our theatres provides increased revenue for muncipal, provincial and federal governments, while giving employment to thousands of Canadian workers. Talking pictures have come of age, tremendous strides having been made in their development from what we have seen of the new season's product, there is every reason to believe that the finest pictures in the screen's history will be presented this year.

"On my recent trip to Europe, I had the opportunity of seeing some impressive British pictures. Attractions such as these, together with the finest produced in the major studios at Hollywood will be our company's contribution to the entertainment of the theatregoers of Edmonton."

In looking over the list of Edmonton bookings we observe M-G-M's great picture, "Dinner At Eight". Joan Crawford and Clark Gable in "Dancing Lady". The United Artist favorite, Evelyn Laye, in "Bitter Sweet". Eddie Cantor in "Roman Scandals" which your Observer is keenly waiting to see. "Tugboat Annie", another Dressler-Beery-Leo the Lion combination. The British studios will contribute through Regal Films, and Empire Films, Stanley Lupino in "Facing the Music", Gracie Fields in "Sally In Our Alley", "Loyalties", by Galsworthy. Heather Angel in "Early to Bed", Lillian Harvey in "The Only Girl", "The Love Nest" and "Rest Cure" with Gene Gerrard. Constance Cummings in her first English picture, "Heads We Go". Warner Bros. "Gold Diggers of 1933", and "Voltaire" with George Arliss are among the big features looked forward to for pleasure and prosperity.

* * * *

W. J. Fawcett, former manager of the Capitol Theatre, Woodstock, Ont., and recently manager of the Imperial, Sarnia, has been transferred to the Capitol Theatre, St. Thomas.

* * * *

Mr. Len Bishop made his farewell speech on Gift Night, as Manager of the Capitol Theatre, Midland, Ont. He was succeeded by Mr. Duncan Campbell, who was formerly manager of the theatre.

Warner's "Footlight Parade" creates riot, New York, topping receipts of "Gold Diggers" at Opening, Strand Theatre

Manitoba Telephone System Cancels Performing Rights License

(Special to Digest from Winnipeg)

EVIDENCE that the copyright war being staged in England has reached Winnipeg was disclosed by John E. Lowry, commissioner of Manitoba telephones. In fact, CKY, the Manitoba station, is having difficulty in broadcasting certain copyright music without payment of a special fee to a New York firm for the privilege of producing a British musical comedy.

According to a recent ruling of a British court, restauranteurs, for instance, will have to pay a license fee for radio reception in their cafes of copyright music.

What use is a license, if it does not give you license? This is the question Mr. Lowry is asking himself. In addition, he has put the same question to the Secretary of State, the Canadian Radio Commission, and the Attorney-General of Manitoba.

After paying a fee of $3,000 a year to the Canadian Performing Right Society, Ltd., for the privilege of broadcasting music controlled by this company, and finding that its repertoire was limited to a certain extent, the Manitoba Telephone System, on behalf of CKY, the radio broadcasting station of the Manitoba government, has cancelled the contract. This was done Wednesday, October 18, when it was found that a fee would have to be paid to a New York firm, amounting to $100, for the privilege of broadcasting excerpts from a well-known British comic opera.

"The Canadian Performing Right Society, Limited, were after us for four years to take out a license, which we did this year," said Mr. Lowry.

Desirous of producing excerpts from the British musical comedy, "Merrie England", in a coast-to-coast network for the Canadian Radio Commission, Mr. Lowry communicated with the Canadian Performing Right Society as to whether its repertoire included the copyright of this. In response he was advised that Chappel-Harms, Incorporated, of New York, owned this copyright. Following this up, the commissioner wrote to New York and was advised that license of the Canadian Publishing Right Society did not cover the performance "of any of our musical plays".

On February 5, 1932, the Canadian Performing Right Society threatened the Manitoba Telephone System with an injunction and damages if it continues to refuse to take out a license for the production of music from its repertoire. The matter was then taken up with Hon. C. H. Cahan, Secretary of State, who declined to give an opinion and intimated that it was a new question which should be settled by the courts, Mr. Lowry contended that the government institution did not come within the act, not being a commercial concern looking for profit.

It was not until March 8 of this year that a license was taken out by CKY, which was retroactive from the first of the year. At the time of signing the contract, the Manitoba Telephone System paid the society $1,500, and since then has paid another $750.

Concerned about a dispute in Alberta as to the rights of charging fairs and exhibitions an excessive license fee for bands playing copyright music, an order-in-council was passed January 28, 1932, appointing Hon. A. F. Ewing, a judge of the trial division of the Supreme Court of Alberta, to enquire into the matter. In response to a letter from Mr. Lowry, Mr. Justice Ewing, writing February 6 last year, said a copyright lasted during the life of the author and 50 years after his death, but that not all music was under copyright. "All the old music is not subject to copyright," he wrote, "being in what is called the public domain, which means that it cannot be copyrighted and that anyone is free to use it."

Referring to the cancellation of the license, Mr. Lowry said that what he wanted to know was what the license was for, if it restricted broadcasting to certain music. "When we tried to put on a certain production we find someone else has the copyright and we are asked for another fee, when we were told, verbally, that the license of $3,000 would cover practically everything. This $100 payment per performance we are asked for is for the stage rights, which means we could hire a theatre and charge a price for admission, which we have no intention of doing. We are not charging any fee, but just going to put it over the air. It seems strange that we have to go to the United States to get the right to produce a British musical comedy."

However, "Merrie England" will be produced by Winnipeg artists, but the Canadian Radio Commission will pay the $100 fee to the New York firm for the privilege.

(Special to Digest from Winnipeg)

PERHAPS the best scene in the talking picture, "The Girl From Calgary", which opened at the Isis Theatre, Calgary, Alberta, on the holiday, October 9th, were those in technicolor showing the Calgary stampede parade and the contests in the arena. To those in the audience the difference between the studio scenes of the gay story of the girl and her varied experiences to those of Calgary's stampede were so distinctly different as to be at once apparent. The genuine pictures of Calgary's great annual event were excellent.

Fifi D'Orsay was cast in the role of a successful cowgirl who attracts the attention of two visitors. They plan to make her a prominent personality at a beauty contest in Atlantic City and from there to place her on Broadway. The many adventures which this entails to the girl of the west and the stunts her press agent manages to pull, form the dramatic portion of the picture.

"The Girl From Calgary" is of vast western interest.

Sally Eilers in "Second Hand Wife" with Ralph Bellamy in a principal role completed the Isis program. "Second Hand Wife" is the story of a stenographer who tries to advance from her desk to the head of her employer's table.

MAYOR RALPH WEBB officially opened the Winnipeg premiere of the British film spectacle, "F. P. I", at its Garrick Theatre preview, showing at 11 o'clock the night of October 12. His Worship cut a tape opening the doors of the theatre, and then sold the first ticket at the box office. One of the staunchest supports of British films in Winnipeg, Mayor Webb has already done much toward securing a firm footing for Old Country productions in the city. In attending the Garrick preview of "F. P. 1" he rendered British cinema yet another service that will undoubtedly add to the ever-increasing popularity of British pictures in Winnipeg. The band of the Canadian Light Infantry attended.

The picture, a new Fox Film presentation, is one of the most unusual ever depicted, and its theme one of the strangest.

Mae West in "I'm No Angel" at Paramount, New York, will gross $85,000 on week